ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ

ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ 24ನೇ ಫೆಬ್ರುವರಿ 2006ರಂದು

ಸದನವು ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆಯ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 9 ಗಂಟೆ 55 ನಿಮಿಷಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮಾವೇಶಗೊಂಡಿತು.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು (ಶ್ರೀಕೃಷ್ಣರವರು) ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಪೀಠವನ್ನು ಅಲಂಕರಿಸಿದರು.

1. ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಆಗಮನ

ಘನತೆವೆತ್ತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 9.55 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧದ ಮಹಾದ್ವಾರದ ಬೃಹತ್ ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಲುಗಳ ಬಳಿಗೆ ಆಗಮಿಸಿದರು. ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ತಮ್ಮ ಕಾರಿನಿಂದ ಇಳಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಅವರನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರು ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರು (ಪ್ರಭಾರ) ಸ್ವಾಗತಿಸಿ, ಮಹಾದ್ವಾರದ ಬಳಿ ಕರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದರು. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆಯ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ (ಪ್ರಭಾರ)

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೃಷ್ಣ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು

ಶ್ರೀ ವಿ.ಆರ್. ಸುದರ್ಶನ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರು

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿ.ಎನ್. ಚತುರ್ವೇದಿ
ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ. ಕುಮಾರಸ್ವಾಮಿ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್. ಯಡಿಯೂರಪ್ಪ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಎಸ್. ಹೊರಟ್ಟಿ
ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಸದೀಯ
ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಸಚಿವರು

ಎ.ಡಿ.ಸಿ.

ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯು ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಆಗಮಿಸಿತು. ಸಭಾಸದನದ ದ್ವಾರದ ಬಳಿ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆ ಬಂದಕೂಡಲೇ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಆಗಮನವನ್ನು ಮಾರ್ಷಲ್‌ರವರು ಸಭೆಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು ಮತ್ತು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗೀತೆಯನ್ನು ನುಡಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಸದನವನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಳ್ಳುವತನಕ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಎದ್ದು ನಿಂತುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

ಸಭಾಸದನದ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದ ಬಳಿಕ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯು ಎರಡು ಭಾಗವಾಗಿ ಬೇರ್ಪಟ್ಟಿತು. ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಬಲಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರು ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಎಡಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮಧ್ಯಭಾಗದ ಆಸನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು. ಉಭಯ ಸದನಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಂದಿರುವ ಆಸನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು.

2. ವಿಧಾನ ಮಂಡಲದ ಉಭಯ ಸದನಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳನ್ನುದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಾಷಣ.

ಘನತೆವೆತ್ತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿ.ಎನ್. ಚತುರ್ವೇದಿಯವರು ವಿಧಾನ ಮಂಡಲದ ಉಭಯ ಸದನಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳನ್ನುದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆಯ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ 24ನೇ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ 2006ರ ಶುಕ್ರವಾರದಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಾಷಣ.

ಘನತೆವೆತ್ತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು: ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರೆ, ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರ, ಮತ್ತು ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೆ, ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ನನ್ನ ಹಾರ್ದಿಕ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this joint session.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್. ಧರ್ಮಸಿಂಗ್ (ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷದ ನಾಯಕರು): XXX

(ಗೊಂದಲ)

ಶ್ರೀ ವಾಟಾಳ್ ನಾಗರಾಜ್ (ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ): XXX

(ಶ್ರೀ ವಾಟಾಳ್ ನಾಗರಾಜ್‌ರವರು ಸಭಾತ್ಯಾಗ ಮಾಡಿದರು)

ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ.ವಿ. ಶ್ರೀರಾಮರೆಡ್ಡಿ (ಬಾಗೇಪಲ್ಲಿ): XXX

ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ ಖರ್ಗೆ (ಗುರುಮಿಠ್‌ಕಲ್): XXX

ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್. ಧರ್ಮಸಿಂಗ್: XXX

ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ.ವಿ. ಶ್ರೀರಾಮರೆಡ್ಡಿ: XXX

(ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಸದಸ್ಯರೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಸಭಾತ್ಯಾಗ ಮಾಡಿದರು)

ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ.ವಿ. ಶ್ರೀರಾಮರೆಡ್ಡಿ: XXX

(ಶ್ರೀಯುತರುಗಳಾದ ಜಿ.ವಿ. ಶ್ರೀರಾಮರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಕೆ. ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆ, ಎನ್. ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರನ್, ಮನೋಹರ್ ಕೆ. ಕಿನೇಕರ್, ಹಾಗೂ ದಿಗಂಬರ್ ಯಶವಂತರಾಯ್ ಪಾಟೀಲ ಇವರುಗಳು ಸಭಾತ್ಯಾಗ ಮಾಡಿದರು.)

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR:-

The State has witnessed a major political change with the formation of JD (S)-BJP coalition Government. In view of the difficulties involved in distinguishing between the scope and effect of Article 175(1) vis- a- vis Article 176(1) of the Constitution of India, only with a view to

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xxx ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರ ಆದೇಶದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷದ ನಾಯಕರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡತದಿಂದ ತೆಗೆದುಹಾಕಲಾಗಿದೆ.

apprise the august houses and people of the state, broad information is being provided through my address of what action the Government proposes to take in the ensuing days. I reiterate that I am addressing these august houses only under Article 175(1) of the Constitution. The coalition partners of my Government have realized the need to address the issues of basic necessities for which a Common Minimum Programme of effective governance is being formulated.

2. Achieving the all round development of the State with a focus on social justice and maintenance of harmony is the main priority of the Government. The Government is committed to the welfare of the farmers, the weaker sections of society, the minorities and women as well as the protection of the State's language and culture, its land and water resources. My Government will design appropriate policies and programmes to achieve a growth rate of 8 to 10 % in GDP and more than 4% in agricultural sector so that Karnataka's rate of growth exceeds the national average. The administrative machinery will be geared to quickly take up development works in all the regions of the State. Special attention will be paid to correct regional imbalances. My Government will traverse a dynamic path of development to bring peace, prosperity and contentment to its citizens.

3. My Government is well aware of the fact that economic reforms have had good as well as adverse outcomes. The sharp and increasing gap between the rich and poor as well as the urban and rural areas are some of these adverse effects which my Government will address through a new 'Rural Infrastructural programme'. This will take up the task of providing drinking water, quality primary educatiand health facilities on a war footing to the poor.

4. My Government will take steps to curb corruption at all levels. Vigilance institutions will be set up for regular inspection of works specially in the area of rural development, public works, irrigation and watershed development.

5. Decentralisation as provided under the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution will be given due priority.

6. My Government is totally committed to the education of young girls. As a special incentive, "Kittur Rani Chennamma Puraskar" for meritorious girl students will be instituted from the next academic year. The State Government will take up the responsibility of providing financial assistance for professional education, to ten girl students from BPL families in every district, who score the highest marks in the PUC examination.

7. My Government would take all steps to implement the roadmap for the State's development by way of the eleven missions as unfolded by His Excellency the President of India in the special joint session of Karnataka Legislature on 20th November 2005. A special implementation Committee chaired by the Chief Minister will be formed for faster implementation of His Excellency's vision.

8. We are celebrating the golden jubilee year of the unification of Karnataka. The celebration of Suvarna Karnataka will be undertaken by various departments on a grand scale. Various programmes and schemes will be launched during the year which will make citizens proud of our language, culture and traditions. During the year Janapada Jatre performances by folk artists will be organized every Sunday in front of the Vidhana Soudha. This will bring folk art to urban audiences and foster an appreciation of our artistic tradition. On the occasion of the Suvarna Karnataka, my Government will give priority to Kannada in administration at all levels.

9. Kannada is the state language and it would be the objective of my Government to ensure primacy for Kannada in the State. A delegation of litterateurs and eminent personalities from Karnataka led by the Chief Minister would meet the Honourable Prime Minister to seek classical status for Kannada. The Government will work with all the leading software vendors and with Government of India to bring out standards of Kannada for easy use of this language in computers.

10. My Government will take appropriate steps to encourage investment in the production of quality Kannada films and their exhibition in the state.

11. Officers at all levels will extensively tour the villages. They will take decisions on the spot to redress the grievances of the common man.

12. My Government will deal firmly with all anti social and anti national elements and create an atmosphere of peace, tranquility and security. While assuring full implementation of socio-economic development programmes meant for the dispossesed and the poor sections, my Government believes that Naxalism is a grave threat to internal security and it is committed to containing the same through all lawful means.

13. My Government will take all necessary steps to ensure that the law and order situation, which is satisfactory today, is further improved in all parts of the State.

14. All these steps mean that the Police force must be strengthened by filling up vacancies in the Police department and equipping the Police with modern equipment to face the increasing sophistication in actions of criminals. The officials of the department will also be given training to counter the threat of terrorists and Naxals. The computerization efforts of the Police department would be reviewed to bring in increased use of IT tools in governance and further strengthened to maintain an up-to- date database of anti-social elements.

15. All interstate issues with neighbouring states will be attempted to be resolved by my Government through mutual discussions.

16. Karnataka is a land known for peace, tolerance and harmony. My Government gives a firm commitment to the minorities and weaker sections of the society that their safety and interests will be well protected by the Government as provided by the Constitution.

17. Government, municipal and panchayat lands have been encroached extensively around Bangalore, Mysore, Mangalore, Hubli-Dharwar, Belgaum, Gulbarga and other cities and towns. My Government will initiate serious action to remove such encroachments and make these lands available for public purposes.

18. My Government is also contemplating a one time regularization of agricultural lands being unauthorisedly used for non-agricultural purposes in urban and semi-urban areas. This action will bring in considerable revenues to the Government which will be used for improving infrastructure. This step will also give relief to citizens who have houses in these revenue layouts. Development of layouts in urban areas will henceforth be strictly regulated under the relevant laws of the land.

19. The State has suffered extensive damage because of heavy floods in the last few months. Repairs and relief works already undertaken will be speeded up. Wherever required fresh works will also be started. My Government will request the Central Government to sanction more assistance for relief and reconstruction in the flood affected areas.

20. My Government sincerely believes that speedy development of the agricultural and horticulture sectors can make Karnataka a developed State. The majority of the people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. To increase the productivity of the agricultural sector, seeds and quality planting material would be produced in the departmental nurseries by adopting tissue culture technology. Karnataka has got the second highest arid area in the country. The coverage of watershed development programmes will be increased. Subsidized credit through co-operative societies and commercial banks would be provided to the farmers. My Government also intends to increase the support price of selected commodities in tune with the rising costs of production.

21. My Government will bring out an action plan to address the many technical and other changes which have taken place in the agriculture sector. This action plan will among other things, facilitate development of efficient agricultural markets and improved delivery chains from farmers to consumers.

22. My Government will create a revolving fund of rupees twenty five crores for creating a buffer stock of fertilizers. This buffer stock will be used to provide fertilizers to the farmers at the right time.

My Government will increase the financial allocation for the price stabilization fund to help the farmers in times of wide fluctuations in the prices of agricultural produce. Primacy would be given to implementation of these schemes in the 39 most backward talukas of the State.

23. My Government will facilitate mechanisation of the agriculture sector by providing a grant of rupees thirty crores for purchase of new equipment for use by farmers.

24. My Government will examine the issue of allowing the private sector a role in agricultural education so as to ensure that trained manpower is available in the area of agriculture. My Government will take steps to fill some of the critical vacancies in the agriculture, horticulture, sericulture and animal husbandry departments.

25. My Government will encourage use of new technologies like organic farming and drip irrigation to increase both the area under production along with productivity so as to maintain our lead in the horticulture sector. My Government would facilitate farmers to move towards precision farming in horticulture. The implementation of the national horticulture mission in Karnataka will be taken up in right earnest. It would be our endeavour to make Karnataka one of the leading horticultural States in India.

26. It is hoped that all these progressive measures will ensure that no farmer will commit suicide due to economic distress .

27. Cubbon Park and Lalbagh enjoy a special place in the hearts of people living in Bangalore. Large numbers of national and international tourists visit these gardens every year. My Government will provide special allocations to upgrade facilities in these two parks so as to bring them to international standards.

28. My Government intends to give all encouragement to private and cooperative institutions to further set up cold chain storage facilities with pack houses to put in place a lasting solution to the recurring problem of glut of perishable agricultural commodities and loss to producers.

29. Social justice and empowerment is the aim of my Government for the development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Minorities. Efforts will be made to ensure adequate allocation of funds for the development of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Minorities. My Government will ensure maximum flow of funds to the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan out of the State Plan Outlay.

30. My Government will strengthen the infrastructure in the residential schools meant for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes and prepare students to become the future technical and scientific manpower of Karnataka. Emphasis will also be laid on training of the youth in the hospitality and tourism sectors, such as courses on hotel management, catering and tourist guides etc. Greater attentions will also be given to imparting quality training in the nursing and para-medical disciplines. Financial assistance in the shape of bank loans will be provided to unemployed youth.

31. To promote the economic development of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Class farmers, irrigation facilities will be provided to their dry lands by increasing the allocation under the Gangakalyana scheme. Funds will be provided for electrification of the borewells.

32. To encourage meritorious students from poor families, my Government will pay the fees of education in professional courses such as engineering, medicine, dental science, agriculture and veterinary science of BPL students who score above 90% marks in PUC. Morarji Desai residential schools will be started in all thirty nine backward talukas of the state.

33. My Government is committed to the cause of minorities in the state. My Government would seriously examine the possibility and desirability of establishing four minority education academies which will focus on providing good quality education, skills training, personality development and employment to the minorities in the State. The Government would form trusts to administer these academies and provide land for the same.

34. My Government is committed to strengthening the public distribution system. It will continue the scheme of providing food grains at the subsidised rate of Rs.3 per kg. My Government has been holding consultations with the Government of India to procure ragi and jowar in the State to be supplied instead of wheat through the public distribution system.

35. My Government has already completed a transparent survey to identify people below the poverty line who would be eligible to become beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System in the State. The department has embarked upon a programme of issuing computerized cards to all these beneficiaries within the next 6 months. These cards will have a provision of putting biometrics of the individual members of the family so that the diversion of subsidised foodgrains can be prevented. During the period that is required to process and issue the regular ration cards, temporary cards are being issued to all the families surveyed.

36. My Government will encourage village and social afforestation programmes with the triple objectives of improving the environment, helping women who are responsible for fuel and fodder collection and to increase rural incomes.

37. My Government is committed to the time bound completion of all the irrigation projects in the Krishna, Cauvery and Godavari basins. Kalasa Banduri Project will be implemented without further delay.

38. The canal system of the existing irrigation projects particularly in the Tunga Bhadra and Cauveri basins are silted and are in need of repairs. My Government will immediately take up their desilting and repairs to improve water flow in these canals. High priority will be given to command area development programmes so as to exploit the irrigation potential in the state. New projects will be taken up where necessary to bring more land under irrigation.

39. The Karnataka Government has been implementing a tank rehabilitation programme with the assistance of the World Bank. My Government will expand this programme to more tanks to repair and rehabilitate them to restore their irrigable capacity to their original level.

40. Education in general and Primary Education in particular will be the thrust area of my Government. Constant supervision of Primary and Secondary schools will be undertaken to improve quality of learning so that our children are well prepared to make best use of the expanding opportunities in our rapidly growing economy and become good citizens of the country. We shall also try to maintain and improve the quality of our higher, scientific, medical, management, engineering, literary and general education which has an outstanding reputation in the country.

41. My Government would further improve the quality of English, computer and computer assisted teaching in schools so as to make children more competent and confident. Facilities such as toilets and drinking water will be provided in all girls' schools so that their enrolment increases. Compound walls will also be constructed around girls' schools.

42. My Government will set up a committee of experts to suggest measures for improving the functioning of schools located in border areas.

43. My Government will take up various works for augmenting power generation in the State. With the help of Government of India, an ultra mega power project with a capacity of 4000 MW will be taken up. Within the next few months a new private sector 1015 MW thermal plant of Nagarjuna Power Corporation is expected to commence construction after conforming to all the environmental safety standards. Further work on the 230 MW Varahi Stage-II Hydro-electric Project of Karnataka Power Corporation will start shortly.

44. KPTCL will set up at Bangalore a 'Lights Museum and Energy Centre for End Users' as part of the centenary celebrations of introducing electric lighting in Bangalore.

45. Panchayat Raj Institutions have been strengthened and empowered by devolving powers, finance and functionaries. Transparency and quality maintenance are very essential in execution. In order to review development works, Taluk level Vigilance Committees have been constituted under the Chairmanship of MLAs. They will be further strengthened.

friendly State and maintain its unique investor's climate. Flyovers under construction in Bangalore shall be completed ahead of schedule. Roads damaged by rain in Bangalore city shall be repaired in the next two months. Additionally, 1000 kilometers of roads in Bangalore will be asphalted in the next fifteen months.

51. The State would endeavour to promote investments in specific sectors where it has core competence viz., engineering, automobile, food processing, apparel and textiles, oil refining and petrochemicals, electronics, steel and cement, pharmaceuticals, IT & BT and infrastructure.

52. Government would come up with a well-formulated scheme for promoting cultivation of Jetropha and production of bio-diesel which is part of the Energy Mission advocated by His Excellency, the President of India for Karnataka's prosperity.

53. Karnataka is endowed with the required climatic conditions to grow more sugarcane, which will enable sugar factories to produce ethanol. Ethanol can be mixed with petrol for use in transport vehicles. My Government will encourage sugar factories to produce more ethanol which will improve their financial position and provide an alternative fuel.

54. Karnataka continues to lead in the Information Technology sector and is expected to record exports of rupees thirty five thousand crores during the current financial year. It is expected that growth of IT & BT sector will create more jobs for local youth. My Government will try its utmost for the dispersal of these sectors by providing requisite facilities in other important cities and towns of the State.

55. Karnataka is the country's largest Bio cluster, being home to over 50 per cent of the Biotech Companies of the country. During the last financial year, the State attracted one Biotech Company every fortnight. My Government would like to tap the potential of this sunrise industry by attracting major Biotech players. The Biotech Park, which will be operational in ten months, has already attracted attention from the major players. A Centre of Excellence for Bio-informatics Research and Training, funded by the Government of India, would be set up in the Institute of Bio-informatics and Applied Biotechnology.

46. To strengthen their functioning and to inculcate a sense of competition amongst panchayati raj institutions, my Government, apart from allocating more funds to panchayats, intends to introduce some innovative measures such as:

i. Performance based incentive scheme for devolution of untied funds so as to make panchayats more responsive, accountable and enable them to deliver core public services more effectively;

ii. To review their performance in accordance with transparent parameters such as village sanitation, girls' enrolment and retention, health indicators and regularity in conducting Gram Sabhas;

iii. And to involve Panchayats in such review processes.

47. My Government is fully aware of the fact that the district roads are in bad shape. As a first step, action will be taken to improve the roads connecting districts to districts and Karnataka Roads Development Corporation will be entrusted with this responsibility.

48. The Stree Shakti scheme which aims at the economic and social empowerment of women by bringing them into the mainstream of development will be further strengthened. While 15 lakh women have already been organized into 1 lakh self help groups, efforts will be made to promote 50,000 more self help groups to provide economic and social empowerment to women. The groups will also get support by way of skills training.

49. The rural housing programme will be put on the fast track. It will be ensured that in the coming years, no BPL family is without a house in the State. Three lakh houses will be constructed in the next one year. Housing for slum dwellers, rural and BPL families will be given a special focus.

50. It is the firm resolve of my Government to ensure that Bangalore's unique position as a prime destination for investors is maintained. All infrastructural problems will be resolved within a fixed and limited time frame. Karnataka will continue to be the most investor

56. While my Government will not disinvest in profit making public sector undertakings, the disinvestment in loss making units will be undertaken with utmost transparency.

57. My Government is acutely aware of the need to improve and upgrade infrastructure in and around Bangalore. My Government will work along with the IT & BT sector in Bangalore and provide all the infrastructure which is required for development of these industries. Adequate security to women working in IT & BT and other sectors in night shifts will be provided. Indeed, ensuring the security of all women is an important objective of the Government.

58. All efforts would be made for the speedy completion of Bangalore International Airport to meet the growing demand of air traffic in the city. My Government proposes to build new airports at Gulbarga, Bijapur, Shimoga and Hassan. Apart from the metro project, which is awaiting final approval from Government of India, my Government proposes to introduce other mass rapid transport systems in areas not covered by Bangalore Metro.

59. My Government will continue to share the cost of gauge conversion and laying of new railway tracks in the State to improve the railway network in the State.

60. Healthcare is a significant issue for my Government. Primary Health Centres are being strengthened with a view to providing 24 hours nursing care. This is intended to reduce the maternal and infant mortality rates. 47 Primary Health Centres are being upgraded in the 39 most backward taluks identified by the Dr. Nanjundappa Committee. Constructions of Primary Health Centres are being taken up with the assistance of NABARD and World Bank.

61. It is proposed to introduce a Health Insurance Scheme to cover landless agricultural labourers among BPL families. Under this scheme, medical expenses up to a certain limit will be covered. A scheme will be formulated to provide medical assistance to poor people suffering from serious diseases like cancer and heart disease. Pregnant women from BPL families will be provided financial assistance for nutritious food.

62. My Government has taken the menace of bird flu which has occurred in some parts of the country seriously and is very vigilant about safeguarding the State from its intrusion. A high level committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the Minister for Medical Education and Animal Husbandry to monitor the situation in Karnataka on a day to day basis and take all remedial measures required.

63. My Government realizes the importance of e-Governance for quick and efficient implementation of programmes and for effective monitoring. We would intensify e-Governance efforts in all the departments of the State. The imaginative use of e-Governance tools will also lead to more efficiency and transparency in delivery of Government services to the citizens.

64. My Government will formulate and implement special development schemes within the framework of existing plan programmes for the development of the backward taluks of the state identified by the Dr. Nanjundappa Committee.

65. I am really privileged to have presented the vision of my Government to this joint session of the legislature. I am hopeful that all the members of both houses will extend all co-operation to this Government to enable it to fulfill its mission of making Karnataka a Model State by providing efficient, forward looking and honest governance.

JAI HIND
JAI KARNATAKA